

I didn't accept this money from Mr. Prokos as I had only photographs of jade sculptures with me and because I felt that Mr. Prokos' behavior was of a highly suspicious nature. There were people there that night who would be willing to testify to this. I now know that Mr. Prokos was attempting to give me marked one hundred dollar notes which would have linked me to that cocaine deal.

At the time of my arrest in Aunt Charlie's I offered absolutely no resistance to the agents of the D.E.A., but yet with handcuffs upon my hands I was beaten by the D.E.A. agents right in front of the front window of Aunt Charlie's so that all who were inside of Aunt Charlie's could see. There were many people there that night who will gladly testify to this, I'm sure. Yet, this is not the full extent of my abuse.

Upon entering Aunt Charlie's these same Federal D.E.A. agents cursed me and called me a faggot; loudly stating such slanderous insults as "Byron, you goddamn faggot! So you want to go back to prison and suck some more dicks and take it in the ass." I was also physically struck inside the establishment of Aunt Charlie's by these same fine representatives of the Federal Government. Furthermore, Agent Bennie Swint, Jr. made the remark very loudly so that all could hear "Come on you goddamn faggot, move it! You're going back to prison to suck some big dicks."

Certainly this is slander, not discounting the fact that I was struck numerous times in a public place. Many girl friends know that I have no unnatural sex drives. These same agents robbed me of over \$70.00. I can prove the manner in which I earned this money which was my Social Security check which I had cashed, some of which I had spent. I can produce people who were there to testify to the fact that I had the money just moments prior to my arrest. Plus, I have the receipt still where I had only \$1.85 when I entered the Fulton County Jail immediately after my arrest.

I shall not fail to mention that upon my arrival at the D.E.A. headquarters in Atlanta, where I was taken first after I was picked up at Aunt Charlie's, agent Bennie Swint, Jr. took me to an office to further search me and "talk to me." Once agent Bennie Swint, Jr. and I were alone in that office, Bennie Swint said to me "Now why don't you call Brad Marcello up and ask him to sell you a pound of heroin. I bet you he won't do it now."

Also, at this time agent Bennie Swint, Jr. removed a black jade and 14K gold bracelet from my arm which I had purchased for cash 12/5/74 and for which I still have my receipt as well as an antique silver malacite ring which I also still have my receipt for where I bought them. I also had in my possession one Chien Lung (ca. 1750 A.D.) white jade amulet of a lock which was buried with the dead to lock their spirits to the earth so that they wouldn't become ghost. These items were never returned to me nor was I given a receipt for them by agent Bennie Swint. There are people who were there at Aunt Charlie's that night who would testify that I was wearing both the malacite ring, black jade and 14K gold bracelet and that I had the Chien Lung jade lock at the time of my arrest. I didn't have any of these articles when I arrived at the Fulton County Jail so I have no receipt for them

from the D.E.A. as I wasn't given one. It is apparent that when officer Bennie Swint, Jr. "talked to me" and searched me privately in an office of the D.E.A. he stole these articles from me. The D.E.A. now deny having these items.

At the Preliminary Hearing Judge Joel Feldman dropped the charges against me because of a note he had received from the D.E.A. stating that I had been working with them providing information on drug trafficking. Harold A. Gold of Nadler and Gold (Suite 1710, Rhodes-Haverty Bldg., 131 Peachtree St., Atlanta) represented me at the Preliminary Hearing.

I was indicted by the Federal Grand Jury on the charge of conspiring to distribute six ounces of cocaine on March 6th. I was charged with conspiracy to sell and distribute 10 ounces of cocaine at the Preliminary Hearing at which the charges were dropped. What happened to the four missing ounces of cocaine?

The original charges against us was conspiracy to sell and distribute 10 ounces of cocaine and by the time the charges reached the Grand Jury, it's only 6 ounces. Now here is a surprise, while Tommy Rauschenberg was in jail with me, he told me that he had sold Special Agent Jerry Chapman 2 lbs of cocaine that night and Scott Boyd agreed with Tommy Rauschenberg as to this fact - that it was 2 lbs of cocaine that Tommy Rauschenberg sold - not 6 ounces as the charges stand now and not 10 ounces as the charges were at the Preliminary Hearing.

What happened to the rest of the cocaine which the agents seized, Tommy Rauschenberg has been sentenced to seven years in Federal prison with no parole, so he will probably be willing to testify as to the amount of cocaine which he sold to Special Agent Jerry Chapman the night of his arrest.

Mr. Harold A. Gold who represented me at the Preliminary Hearing was an attorney for the Public Defenders office. William Scott Boyd was in the Fulton County Jail with me and was discussing with me the possibility of having Harold Gold represent him in this case. Jimmy Boyd, Scott Boyd's brother told my mother over the telephone that they were going to pay Mr. Gold to represent Scott Boyd. Shortly after this conversation occurred, Mr. Gold dropped my case completely.

While in jail Scott Boyd wrote a letter to Mr. Bernard Fensterwald stating that I had absolutely nothing to do with the sale or distribution of the cocaine for which I had been charged. Scott Boyd also indicated in his letter to Mr. Fensterwald that I was being framed by Jerry Prokos, as I had absolutely nothing to do with that dope deal.

Later, I was told that Mr. Gold took Scott Boyd before a closed session of the Federal Grand Jury on March 6, 1975 where Scott Boyd testified that I set the whole cocaine deal up. I was told that Scott Boyd did this because Mr. Gold had promised him that he would receive a light sentence by so doing. My trial is set for April 14, 1975, 10:00 A.M. in the Old Post Office Bldg., Room 318, Judge James C. Hill, later changed to Judge Edenfeld.

Jerry Prokos has been convicted of two felonies, one for sales of heroin in Michigan and the other one for stealing an airplane. Brad Marcello (this is not his real name) who is from New Orleans, Louisiana was arrested in New Orleans towards the end of 1967 or the early part of 1968 for possession of heroin which was found in the garage portion of a garage apartment in which Brad Marcello was living. Brad Marcello made bond on this charge and then promptly left the state of Louisiana. He never went to court on this charge, and, according to the information which I have, these old charges are still pending against Brad Marcello in the state of Louisiana, although, it isn't on the NCIC computer used by the police as they are old charges. According to my information, there is still a warrant outstanding for Brad Marcello's arrest in New Orleans. These men are Federal narcotics agents and are protected by the Drug Enforcement Administration. This is why I have been framed for this charge.

If you'll remember, I had arranged to make a very large buy of narcotics from Brad Marcello, Jerry Prokos and Nick Catri when I first started to work for the D.E.A. I was not allowed to proceed and have Brad Marcello and his associates go through with the sale of a large amount of narcotics to my buyer who was to be a D.E.A. agent. Instead, I was framed by Jerry Prokos and arrested by the D.E.A.

Furthermore, I had arranged for the D.E.A. to make a sizeable buy of narcotics from Charlie Land whom I mentioned earlier. Charlie Land's brother is Lemar Land and they sell every kind of drug or narcotic which there is to sell, and yet, they are never arrested or anything, with the exception of a few couple of arrests which resulted in Charlie spending absolutely no time in prison.

I had also arranged for the D.E.A. agents to purchase cocaine from Mr. Ambroise of Ambroise & Company which is located directly across the street from the Old Post Office Building. Mr. Ambroise is Ron Daveney's partner in that business.

I originally met Ron Daveney through Bill Arnett as Ron Daveney was working with Bill Arnett in William and Robert Arnett, Inc. until Mr. Ron Daveney did many dishonest things to undermine Bill Arnett's business which resulted in Ron Daveney being kicked out of the company. After Bill Arnett threw Ron Daveney out of his business, Ron Daveney became associated with a Mr. Ambroise.

When Mr. Ambroise and Ron Daveney formed their partnership, they opened up a small art gallery on Poplar Street which is directly across the street from the Old Post Office building. The company is now listed under "Jewelers - Retail," 87 Poplar Street, N. W. Mr. Ambroise and Ron Daveney are now using Ambroise and Company as a front for the smuggling of narcotics into this country from South America in particular.

After my return from Chile, just prior to my decision to attempt to work for the Federal gangsters, Mr. Ambroise and I made contact when I wandered into his business off of the street one day after doing some research work on art. Upon introducing myself, Mr. Ambroise recognized me, (although, I do not remember having met him before). Mr. Ambroise approached me with the proposition that he would like for me to distribute narcotics for himself and Mr. Daveney. Mr. Ambroise informed

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me that Mr. Daveney was in South America at that time so I needn't worry about them running out of cocaine. Mr. Ambroise further informed me that he was working in association with Herman and Bill Jackson. Once I was employed by the D.E.A. as a special employee, I called Mr. Ambroise where upon he agreed to sell to my "buyer" a quantity of cocaine. My buyer was going to be a special agent of the D.E.A. I was never allowed to set this bust up, although, Mr. Ambroise had agreed to make the sale. I wonder if Mr. Ambroise is being given protection by the Federal gangsters.

Mr. Ambroise didn't even seem to worry or care about the fact that he told me that Ron Daveney was in South America to smuggle cocaine into this country. If I was involved in something like that, I certainly wouldn't just tell anyone about what I was doing. Mr. Ambroise told me that if I would distribute cocaine for him and Ron Daveney, I wouldn't have to worry about being arrested if I was careful as Mr. Ambroise is a very close personal friend and business associate of a Federal narcotics agent by the name of Mr. Woods from Clayton County, Georgia.

I didn't believe Mr. Ambroise when he told me this as I felt that he was just trying to get me to sell his dope for him and get me into trouble. Now I do completely doubt that there is any honesty as far as the D.E.A. is concerned.

Going back to Wayne who was a big time syndicate figure flying dope out of Columbia up through Florida, if you'll remember I did not know Wayne's last name, although, he was living in the Hill Top apartments off of Piedmont Road. I still remember the apartment in which Wayne lived. Wayne's apartment was located directly across from that of Mr. Jeff Wilcox's who was a local heroin addict, with whom I did not associate but knew only briefly and mostly I know him by his terrible reputation. There should still be 45 caliber bullet holes in that apartment where Wayne's little boy was playing with one of Wayne's machine guns and it went off.

Wayne was married to a woman of short stature with blond hair whom he always referred to as "the hooker." I suppose he nick named her that.

Going back to Brad Marcello, during one of Brad Marcello's and Jerry Prokos' trips to Atlanta, I introduced Jerry Prokos to Mr. Gary Margol and Mr. Jim Plant who is doing research work at Emory University in the fields of Bio-Chemistry and Micro-Biology. Neither Gary Margol or Jim Plant are drug dealers, nor involved in any illegal activities to my knowledge.

In any event, on Brad Marcello's and Jerry Prokos' next trip to Atlanta, they approached both Mr. Plant and Mr. Margol with an offer to pay them for helping Brad Marcello and Jerry Prokos set up a lab to make such drugs as MDA, PCP, STP, etc. Mr. Marcello and Mr. Prokos offered to pay for the lab and all of its equipment, chemicals, etc., as well as paying both Mr. Plant and Mr. Margol for their services, plus a percentage of the profits from the sale of the drugs that they would be making.

Jerry Prokos and Brad Marcello were to sell the drugs which would be made by the lab. Both Jim Plant and Gary Margol are not drug dealers so they flatly refused Mr. Marcello's and Mr. Prokos' offer as they wanted absolutely nothing to do with any illegal activities. I was out of town when this incident occurred, but was informed of this upon my return to Atlanta as my friends were somewhat upset about this. Mr. Marcello and Mr. Prokos also offered to sell and to front (give drugs on credit) drugs to Gary Margol. In any case, Gary Margol also refused Jerry Prokos and Brad Marcello when they offered to give drugs on credit to him to sell for them.

During my last trip to Detroit which I accompanied Brad Marcello on, if you'll remember, Brad Marcello left me in Detroit and flew to New York where he was buying drugs from Max Schullman who owns a publishing house and an art gallery in New York. Then Brad flew back in his private plane to Detroit where I still was. When Brad Marcello returned to Detroit he told me that he had a deal going to sell Wally Eisenberg, Bob "Bo" Garret (who was into musical promotions) and Michael Tutock who owns Quality Concerts, 1006 David Scott Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48226, phone number (313) 963-5131, a large quantity of cocaine.

Brad Marcello had arranged all of these dope deals separately and had offered to give me \$5,000.00 to deliver the dope from his plane to each of these people or their representatives. To prove to me that he was not lying, Brad Marcello phoned Michael Tutock at his home in Farmington who confirmed that he was buying a pound of cocaine from Brad Marcello. Michael Tutock also stated that he was selling some pounds of P.C.P. to Brad Marcello. Shortly after Brad Marcello made this offer to me, I jumped on the next jet out of Detroit to Atlanta leaving Brad with his dope deals.

Another odd incident occurred just about December 29, 1975 (I'm not sure as to the date). I was picked up by this girl by the name of Jon Frabbiele. While at Jon Frabbiele's apartment, Jerry Prokos called me and told me that he had gotten the number where I was from my mother. Jerry Prokos was calling me regarding his purchases of ancient Chinese jade sculptures and other objects of art which was to take place during Jerry Prokos' next trip to Atlanta. During my conversation with Jerry Prokos, I mentioned Brad Marcello's name.

After I was through talking to Jerry Prokos, Miss Frabbiele told me that she knew Brad Marcello, Brad Marcello's father and his brothers and whole family. Miss Frabbiele also indicated that she knew Nick Catri as well. It was at this time that Jon Frabbiele informed me that her father is Mr. Frabbiele, and that she came to Atlanta from New Orleans to hide out from her father and his mobster friends. This came as a shock to me. Then Jon Frabbiele started telling me that I should have absolutely nothing to do with Brad Marcello or anyone associated with him.

At this time Jon Frabbiele started telling me about the murder of Creg Culpepper in New Orleans sometime ago. Oddly though it may seem, I knew Creg Culpepper and his family for many years as they lived only a few houses down from my parents home on Wildwood Road. (Creg Culpepper's father owns the Buckhead House of Travel in Atlanta).

Creg Culpepper was selling cocaine, methamphetamine and not for Mr. Marcello, Sr., Brad Marcello and Mr. Frabbiele in New Orleans, until such time that Creg Culpepper decided he had made enough money so that he could buy the horse ranch he had always wanted. He decided that he would stop dealing drugs and return to Atlanta the next morning. He was supposed to have had \$100,000.00 cash in his possession. His mistake was that he had informed Mr. Frabbiele and Brad Marcello that he wasn't going to deal for them anymore.

That night Federal narcotics agents broke into Creg's apartment and blew his head off with a double barrel shot gun. The agents said that Creg was about to run out the back door so they had to shoot him. The truth is that Mr. Marcello and Mr. Frabbiele ordered Creg killed because he knew too much, he was no longer going to work for them and because they wanted to rob him of the money which he had made selling their dope. You see, Miss Jon Frabbiele says that she had gone to Creg's apartment to warn him because she knew what was going to happen to Creg because she had overheard her father and Mr. Marcello, Sr. discussing the matter. I am 100% sure that Jon Frabbiele was telling the truth.

Just as soon as I mentioned Brad Marcello's name over the phone to Jerry Prokos, she pulled out a piece of paper from her purse with Brad Marcello's name, address and phone number, plus she had photographs of Brad Marcello. The last time I saw Creg Culpepper alive I just happen to run into him at Piedmont Park. He was with Frank Craft, and Joe South (the rock star).

* While I was in Asia with Bill Jackson, I learned through him that he had sent a shipment of Asian heroin back to the United States concealed inside a teakwood log. While in Bangkok, Bill Jackson purchased a lot of high teakwood logs - One of these had a hollow place in it in which the heroin was hidden. After the heroin was hidden inside this hollow place in the log, it was packed in with dirt, then a layer of cement was added, covering this thin layer of cement was a layer of plastic wood or "wood puddy."

Bill Jackson's shipment of teakwood logs went to New York City. Bill Jackson was in contact with Max Schullman in New York by means of correspondence. While we were in Bangkok I saw the letters which Bill Jackson wrote to Max Schullman.

* One more thing, when I was arrested at Aunt Charlie's by the D.E.A. agents I was never given my rights, as the agents are suppose to do under the law. The reason the agents didn't give me my rights is because they were too busy beating me up and cussing me.

Marcelle Marcello is Brad Marcello's brother.

Recently you should have received some lengthy material regarding the knowledge I have of the murder of Dr. King as well as my tremendous troubles which have resulted from my attempts to give what information I have to the Federal Government.

As my materials stated, I overheard a portion of the conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King just one week prior to the actual assassination. In the conversation which I overheard concerning Dr. King's assassination reference was also made to President Kennedy's assassination.

Later I related what I had overheard regarding Dr. King's murder to my mother and she believed me as shortly thereafter Martin Luther King was murdered just as I had told her he would be. We were both very fearful of our lives as the assassins gave me reason to believe that they suspected that I may have overheard a portion of their conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King.

The assassins threatened the lives of both my mother and myself which gave us cause to remain silent until 1970 when we attempted to bring this matter to the attention of officials within the Federal Government so that justice could be served. My mother and I contacted every branch within the Federal Government but were only treated rudely by those officials within the Federal Government.

In 1970 I read an article about Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr. who heads a group called the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. After reading this article I decided to contact Mr. Fensterwald. Mr. Fensterwald sent his chief investigator, Mr. Ken Smith to Atlanta where I supplied him with all of the information which I knew.

After contacting the officials within the Federal Government concerning what information I had regarding the assassination of Dr. King, the very assassins whom I had informed on contacted me and my mother and threatened to kill us and burn our house down for having informed on them. These assassins told me that they could not be informed on as they were syndicate and the syndicate was a government within a government as they had high people within the government whom they worked with.

Ever since that time my mother and I have been threatened, victimized and the objects of numerous dirty tricks by the Federal Government. Our home has been broken into by syndicate people to terrorize us in order to keep us silent. We have had heroin mailed to us from Bangkok so that my mother and I could be arrested and framed for the importation of heroin. We have been constantly afraid for our lives as we have received constant threats from these assassins.

Everytime my mother and I have gone to law enforcement agencies for help we received no help and matters only got worse for us. During this entire period of time Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

and Mr. Ken Smith Fensterwald & Ollhausen Law Offices, 910 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036, phone (202) 223-1667 and Mr. Ken Smith's home phone number is (703) 460-2122, have continued to investigate the information which I gave them and they have discovered some very important things. Mr. Fensterwald and Mr. Smith believe that I am being completely truthful and honest as they have spent the past five years investigating the information which I gave them and it has been very important to them in their recent attempts to get James Earl Ray a new trial.

In November, 1974 I called Mr. Ken Smith and Mr. Bernard Fensterwald as I wanted to work with the Federal Government. I felt that the Watergate case had sufficiently revealed the corruption within the Federal Government so that I could work with them in order to assist in making cases against the gangsters whom my mother and I had been fighting for years. I talked with Ken Smith about a major smuggling operation involving the smuggling of 54 kilos of cocaine into the United States from South America by Mr. Brad Marcello, Nick Catri and Jerry Prokos.

Mr. Smith contacted Mr. Darzenski of the U. S. Customs, Falls Church, Virginia regarding this matter. Mr. Darzenski contacted Mr. Jack Boldin and George Schmealy of the Dept. of Treasury Bureau of Customs. I gave what information I had to Mr. Jack Boldin and George Schmealy. Since most of the information I had concerned smuggling and selling narcotics, Mr. Boldin contacted the Drug Enforcement Administration and they sent agents to his office to speak to me.

Special Agent Mike Dorcott of the D.E.A. wanted me to work with them in an undercover capacity as a "special employee of the D.E.A." For nearly two weeks I went around arranging for D.E.A. agents to make buys from various drug dealers including Mr. Brad Marcello. Mr. Marcello had agreed to sell a pound of heroin as well as several pounds of cocaine. The D.E.A. would not go through with any of the buys and stated that I could not work in an undercover capacity. It shocked me that the D.E.A. would not go through with the purchase of narcotics from Brad Marcello.

Later the D.E.A., Brad Marcello and Jerry Prokos were instrumental in framing me for "conspiracy to distribute cocaine." I later learned that Brad Marcello is really Special Agent Ron Byron Baker of the D.E.A. and that Jerry Prokos is a special employee of the D.E.A. While I was a "special employee" of the D.E.A. I actually arranged to make a purchase of narcotics from a Special Agent (Ron Baker) of the D.E.A. who was involved in smuggling the cocaine into the country. This is the reason that I have been framed.

I had actually uncovered a smuggling operation carried out by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, but I didn't know that the smugglers were Federal Agents until I had gone to the Federal Government to try to help in their arrest and conviction, and was framed by Jerry Prokos and Brad Marcello. All of this and much much is documented and in the possession of Mr. Ernest D.

Brookings (Brookings and Turoff Law Offices, 2813 Cain Tower, Peachtree Center, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, telephone (404) 659-2000.

I am contacting you because I am now in the awful position where I must bring that information I have to the attention of some Senate or Congressional Committee or else I'll go to prison framed for a crime which I am innocent of. My only real hope of getting out of jail and clearing my name is to expose the real criminals for what they are.

I am attempting to bring my case to the attention of people who will act on it and investigate the material which I provide. I am asking you to help me with this in whatever way you can so that it can be properly investigated. Because I went to the government in good faith, I have suffered more than anyone should have and so has my family.

I have once again gone to the Federal Government in order to supply them with information and once again I have been framed for a crime which I did not commit. I urgently need help with this case or I'll be the victim of a terrible injustice. I'm already the victim of a terrible injustice, but if someone or some agency doesn't help me, the D.E.A. shall be successful in framing me so that I'll spend many years in prison for a crime which I am completely innocent of.

Though these materials are lengthy, I do urge you to study them closely as I can assure you the information contained therein is of major interest. My mother is typing this material for me and mailing it to you as I am in the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta. Though my mother may make minor errors and mistakes in her typing, I can assure you that what material you receive is completely true and factual to the best of my knowledge.

I do urge you to contact Mr. Bernard Fensterwald and Mr. Ken Smith in order to verify most of the information which I am supplying you. I can assure you that Mr. Ken Smith and Mr. Fensterwald can and will attest to my sincerity and honesty.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. In regards to the only major mistake which my mother made in typing up my story, the individual whom my mother referred to as "Wayne Smith from Winder, Ga." is actually Phil Smith from Winder, Ga. Also, it was Bill Jackson who told me that "President Kennedy was assassinated because he was conspiring with the Communist" and not Herman Jackson as my mother typed.

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6/25/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)
MURKIN

Re Atlanta nitel to the Bureau, 6/23/75 (no copies to Memphis), and Atlanta tel-calls to Bureau, 6/24/75 and 6/25/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM dated 6/25/75, and captioned, "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."

Enclosed for Memphis is one copy of LHM for information purposes.

For information of the Bureau and Memphis, information in LHM not only pertains to MURKIN, but contains a considerable amount of information concerning narcotics traffic. The writer of the letters, who most certainly appears to be ROBERT BYRON WATSON, is obviously an individual whose reliability and integrity is at best suspect in view of the story he fabricated regarding MURKIN in 1971. Therefore, Atlanta feels the information he has furnished concerning his, as well as others, involvement in narcotics traffic bears careful scrutiny before any investigation is conducted by any agency.

The Bureau is requested to disseminate the enclosed LHM to the U. S. Department of Justice for their evaluation and consideration, and Atlanta will conduct no investigation nor will Atlanta disseminate any information contained therein pending receipt of advice from the Bureau and the Department.

2-Bureau (Enc. 6)
②-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1) *msb*
2-Atlanta
BRB:cw
(6)

44-1987 Sub m 898

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FBI - MIAMI	

F B I

Date: 7/17/75

004

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P*)
MURKIN

RETIRED SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN, MEMPHIS, TENN., HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY ESTHER KARTIGANER AND BY ERNEST LEISER WHO DESIRE TO INTERVIEW HIM RE INSTANT CASE. THESE INDIVIDUALS CLAIM TO BE DOING A CBS TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY ON THE KING MURDER. JENSEN WAS SAC AT MEMPHIS WHEN KING WAS KILLED. HE HAS INDICATED THAT IF HE IS INTERVIEWED HE WILL SIMPLY EXPRESS OPINION THAT JAMES EARL RAY ACTING ALONE KILLED KING.

THIS IS FURNISHED FOR THE BUREAU'S INFORMATION.
END.

JCH:jap
(1)

Approved: JAT
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

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Per

PTM / JHL

44-1987 Sub m 899

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Atlanta Police Check Here On King Data

By MICHAEL LOLLAR

Two Atlanta police intelligence officers were in Memphis yesterday to help evaluate possible new information in the 1968 slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A spokesman for the intelligence division there said the information, received last month by Atlanta Police Commissioner Reginald Eaves, is inconclusive as to a possible conspiracy in the King slaying.

"But, much of the information we received ... appears to be true," the source said. He would not go into detail, but said "provable" information relates to smuggling and narcotics in connection with either confessed murderer James Earl Ray or the slaying itself.

Testimony and government statements involving Ray often have revolved around his possible involvement in gun-running or other smuggling activities, and Ray has claimed he was set up by a mysterious cohort named "Raoul."

As for the conspiracy angle, the source said, "We have nothing concrete." He said, however, the information could open new leads involving a conspiracy. "It looks like what we might turn up could be true. We just don't know whether we can prove it."

The information received by Eaves was in a sworn statement claiming someone in addition to Ray participated in King's slaying. Eaves said last month the statement "warrants our serious consideration."

He refused to identify the person who provided the information, but said it was delivered by a second party he described as "someone I respect a great deal."

Another Atlanta Police Department spokesman said, "This is not a routine investigation." He said the supposed conspiracy is based in Atlanta, which gives the Atlanta Police Department jurisdiction to investigate in Tennessee.

"Some of it checks out and some of it doesn't ... there doesn't appear to be any CIA involvement at all." The spokesman said the investigators who were in Memphis yesterday will try to talk to Tennessee Atty. Gen. Ray Ashley at Nashville today, and later may try to talk to Houston attorney Percy Foreman, one of Ray's original attorneys.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 15

THE COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7/16/75

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: GORDON HANNA

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 18 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police Officials Probe

Atlanta police officials are in Memphis today investigating supposedly new information concerning an alleged conspiracy in the 1968 slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

An official with the Atlanta Police Department's intelligence division said two of their officers were in town yesterday and would remain about a week interviewing people and going over records.

It was learned that the two officers spent almost seven hours interviewing Robert I. Livingston, one of the current attorneys for James Earl Ray, confessed assassin of King. "They were checking out some leads they had, but it would be too early to tell if they were

significant or not," said Livingston last night after the exhaustive interview ended about 10 p.m. He said the officers left him a copy of a statement, claiming a conspiracy, which was originally given by unnamed sources to Atlanta Police Commissioner Reginald Eaves last month.

"I don't know what it all says," said Livingston, "but I should have a chance to look at it today."

Russell X Thompson, a Memphis attorney who worked on the case with Ray's first defense lawyer, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., said the two officers also questioned him yesterday.

Eaves said the report of someone in

addition to Ray participating in the slaying was received from "someone I respect a great deal" and was sufficient to warrant further investigation.

The intelligence division official said yesterday some of the information concerning smuggling and narcotics had "checked out," but there was "nothing concrete" on the conspiracy so far.

Wilbern DeBruler, special agent in charge of the Atlanta FBI office, said he has forwarded the information to the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice, but "we have not been authorized by them to proceed," he said. Part of the information, however, has been known by the FBI since 1971, said DeBruler.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 29

MEMPHIS PRESS-
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 07/16/75
Edition: FINAL
Author: CHARLES H.
Editor: SCHNEIDER
Title:

44-1987 Sub-m 901

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 21 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

PLEASE ADDRESS
CORRESPONDENCE TO:

THE COMMISSIONER
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2



HEADQUARTERS
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

PRIÈRE D'ADRESSER LES
LETTRES COMME SUIT:

LE COMMISSAIRE
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2

YOUR NO.
VOTRE NO° 44-4

OUR NO.
NOTRE NO° 68HQ-791-Q-60

June 23, 1975.

Mr. Joseph A. Marion Jr.,
c/o United States Embassy,
100 Wellington Street,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Re: James Earl RAY
Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr. -
Victim
Civil Rights - Conspiracy

Reference is made to our letter of February 8,
1973, and your Memphis report dated March 1, 1973,
concerning disposition of exhibits being held by our
Force in respect to captioned matter.

It would be appreciated if your Memphis
office could once again cause enquiries to be made
with Mr. J. Clyde Mason, Assistant District Attorney
General, to determine the present status of matters
before the Courts in respect to James Earl RAY.

Your assistance is appreciated.

E.A. Marshall
E.A. Marshall, Insp.,
Officer in Charge,
Federal General Branch.

44-1987 Sub m 902

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 16 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature]

Date: **7-9-75**

To: Director, FBI

(Bufile : **44-38861**)

Attention : _____

From: Legal Attache, Ottawa

(**44-4**)

Title JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY	Character Reference Ottawa letter dated 2-12-73.
---	---

Enclosed are the following communications received from the RCMP: **Original and two copies of RCMP letter dated 6-23-75.**

Remarks:

Memphis note RCMP's request and advise.

Dissemination

- ☐ May be made as received
☐ May be made as indicated by stamp on enclosure
☐ May not be made without further clearance with RCMP

Following offices would be interested in receiving copies of enclosures:

Memphis (44-1987)

Status with this office:

- ☐ RUC
☒ Pending

4 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
1 cc - Memphis (Enc. 1)
1 cc - Foreign Liaison Unit
Direct (Enc. 1)

JFB:jhc
(4)

Do not write in space below	
44-1987 Sub m 903	
SEARCHED SERIALIZED	INDEXED FILED
JUL 10 1975 FBI - MEMPHIS	

Memphis, Tennessee
July 22, 1975

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS

On July 18, 1975, Mr. Terry Lafferty, Assistant District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, was reminded that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are still holding certain items of evidence which were obtained by them during their investigation of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Lafferty stated that James Earl Ray's attorneys are still actively seeking to have Ray's guilty plea voided with a view toward having the State of Tennessee try him before a jury for the murder of Dr. King. He stated he regrets any inconvenience this may be causing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police but he respectfully requests that they retain any and all evidence which might ever be of value in the event James Earl Ray is successful in obtaining a trial.

5 - Bureau (44-38861)

① - Memphis (44-1987)

JCH:jap

(6)

jap

[Signature]

1*

[Signature]

[Signature]

44-1987 Sub m 904

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

7/22/75

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P*)

MURKIN
CR

Re Legat, Ottawa, letter to the Bureau, 7/9/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 5 copies of an LHM
in this matter dated 7/22/75. It is requested that a copy
of this LHM be forwarded to Legat, Ottawa, for transmittal
to the RCMP.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 5)
① - Memphis

JCH:jap
(3)

jap

[Handwritten signature]

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____
[Handwritten initials]

44-1987 sub-m
905



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

August 1, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

MURKIN

On July 30, 1975, Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner A. Reginald Eaves, held a news conference at which time he released the results of his investigation into the assassination of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Two newspaper accounts of this conference are attached to this memorandum.

It is pointed out in these accounts Eaves advised that because of the many questions which remain in the case, he would ask the U. S. Department of Justice, Officials in Memphis, and U. S. Representative Andrew Young to initiate investigation to insure that injustice has not been perpetrated.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

44-1987 Sub m 906

my my

AUG 2 1975

glt



EAVES ADMITS

King Theory Flops

By CLIFF GREEN

Public Safety Commissioner A. Reginald Eaves conceded Wednesday that allegations the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the result of an Atlanta-based conspiracy are "not substantiated."

Eaves then returned the ball to where it had been ever since the Nobel Prize winning civil rights leader was gunned down in 1968: The U.S. Department of Justice and local authorities in Memphis.

The commissioner ordered an investigation into the King murder a month ago after comedian Dick Gregory gave him a copy of a statement by a twice-convicted drug dealer, Robert Byron Watson, who claimed to have overheard several Atlanta men discussing King's murder a week before it occurred.

The Watson statement provided no accurate information on the assassination.

The Atlanta Constitution, Page 1-A, July 30, 1975

Eaves said the statement did give Atlanta investigators unspecified "leads" in the case, but indicated the "leads" had nothing to do with the Atlanta men.

In fact, he said two of the men named by Watson who are still living in Atlanta took polygraph examinations over the weekend, and the lie detector indicated the individuals

were not involved in the alleged conspiracy.

"Based on this evidence," Eaves said in a prepared statement, "our investigation, therefore, causes us to reject the probability of a conspiracy based upon this specific allegations made by Watson in the document he submitted relative to Dr. King's death."

Watson and his mother, Mrs. R. W. Watson, have been trying to convince officials of the truth of the 21-year-old's story since 1970, two years after Dr. King's death.

The Atlanta office of the FBI said it obtained the same information in 1971 and found it groundless.

Watson claims to have been framed on charges of importing heroin in 1972 and charges of conspiring to distribute cocaine in January 1975 by "high government officials and the syndicate" because of his knowledge of the conspiracy.

Eaves said the Atlanta Bureau of Police Services investigation "found no evidence to support his claims."

A mental examination has been ordered for Watson, who is confined to the Federal Youth Center in Ashland, Ky.

At one point during the bureau's probe, Eaves said it would have been impossible for the FBI to investigate the Watson statement four years ago, because some of the information was as new as 1974.

During the Wednesday press conference, however, Eaves admitted that the new information concerned drugs, not the assassination.

"Unless new information becomes available," Eaves said, "I consider the subject closed."



Staff Photo—George A. Clark

A. REGINALD EAVES DISCLOSES HE WAS UNABLE TO FIND NEW EVIDENCE IN KING MURDER CASE
Says Twice-Convicted Drug Dealer's Statement Named Two Men, But Lie Detector Apparently Cleared Them

Eaves' King Probe Called 'Waste, Embarrassment'

By JIM STEWART

Public Safety Commissioner Reginald Eaves' fruitless investigation into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was "a waste of time, money and a source of embarrassment to me and my family," one of the targets of that investigation said Wednesday.

Bane Culley, a self-employed Atlanta businessman, said he had cooperated fully with investigators in the probe "at a great cost to me in terms of time and lawyers' fees."

Eaves said Wednesday a report he received alleging an Atlanta-based conspiracy to kill Dr. King "could not be substantiated."

"Unless new information becomes available, I consider the subject closed," Eaves announced at a press conference.

Culley and several other men were named by Robert Byron Watson, a federal inmate serving time for a drug conviction, as having plotted King's death a week before the civil rights leader was shot April 4, 1968, on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

"I have no comment on what Watson had to say until I have a chance to read his entire statement," Culley said. "But I think the fact that both the FBI and the Atlanta police have looked into it and dismissed it speaks for itself."

Culley said intelligence officers who interviewed him were "polite" but were not specific about what he was suspected of.

"I volunteered to take a polygraph examination," Culley said. "When it was completed I didn't even ask what the results were. I knew what they were."

Culley admitted that he knew his accuser when the young man worked at a Buckhead art gallery, the scene of the alleged plot to kill Dr. King. "If you know Watson or have ever talked with him, then you know what his charges are worth," Culley said.

Watson, 21, is currently serving a five-year sentence in Ashland, Ky., for conviction of narcotics trafficking. U.S. District Judge Newell Edenfield, who originally sentenced Watson, has since ordered that he undergo psychiatric examination.

A rambling, 34-page statement by Watson on his dealings in the drug market included about three pages of information alleging the King plot. Eaves said Wednesday the statement was given to him by comedian Dick Gregory.

"I can now state categorically that many of the names, places and dates concerning the alleged conspiracy have been corroborated," Eaves said. "However, equally as important, Watson's claims of involvement by individuals he named as conspiring to kill Dr. King could not be substantiated."

Eaves said that while the investigation of Watson's allegations proved fruitless, detectives did receive information "which indicates

possibility" that there may have been a conspiracy linked to King's death.

He added, however, "We are unable to attest to the reliability of persons who claim knowledge of a conspiracy."

Because of the "many questions" which remain in the case, Eaves said he would ask the Justice department, officials in Memphis and U.S. Rep. Andrew Young to initiate an investigation "to insure that an injustice has not been perpetrated."

Eaves declined to discuss what new information his investigators had received. He conceded that Watson's report was the same one received and dismissed as useless by the FBI in 1971.

In the course of the investigation Eaves had accused the FBI of being uncooperative and not allowing access to its records.

Eaves said his investigators talked with 11 law enforcement agencies and 35 "non-governmental persons" during the investigation.

F B I

Date: 8/1/75

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
(ATTN: SUPV. JACK LAWN, ROOM 5078
JEH, AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (C)

MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype to the Bureau, 7/18/75.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are the original and five copies of an LHM with attached newspaper clippings.

One copy of above LHM being furnished to Memphis Division for information.

Enclosed clippings set forth the newspaper articles appearing as a result of Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner A. REGINALD EAVES' news conference of 7/30/75, in which he set forth the results of his investigation into the assassination of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

As pointed out in these clippings, the investigation produced no new evidence, however, EAVES stated that he would ask the U. S. Department of Justice, officials in Memphis, and U. S. Representative ANDREW YOUNG to initiate an investigation to insure that injustice has not been perpetrated.

4-Bureau (Enc. 6)
①-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1) (Info) *right*
2-Atlanta
WDC:cw
(7)

44-1987 Subm 907

mmr mmr
AUG 4 1975

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per *gls*

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 455-574



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

September 2, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On September 2, 1975, Grace Keller, Chief Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that the appeal of the subject, James Earl Ray, was docketed in that court on July 7, 1975, under Docket Number 75-1795. The appeal resulted from a judgment handed down in the Western District of Tennessee, Western District, at Memphis by Judge Mc Rae on February 27, 1975, in Civil Case Number 74-166.

The following are the entries in Docket Number 75-1795:

July 7, 1975	<u>Certified Record</u> (Three volumes pleadings, fifteen volumes transcript) filed; and cause docketed.
July 11, 1975	<u>Supplemental Record</u> (One volume transcript) filed.
July 11, 1975	Appearance of Mr. Livingston for Appellant.
July 14, 1975	Appearance of Mr. Haynes, Jr. for Appellee.
July 14, 1975	Appearance of Mr. Fensterwald, Jr. for Appellant.
July 15, 1975	Appearance of Mr. Lesar for Appellant.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency

44-1987 Sub m 908

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 5 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

DK

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

July 31, 1975

Motion: Appellant's brief
to September 17, 1975
(Granted).

August 4, 1975

Opposition of Appellant's
motion for extension of time
to file brief.

9/2/75

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re ME airtel to the Bureau, 6/26/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY". Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of same LHM.

Information furnished in enclosed LHM was obtained from records at the U. S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, by SC DWIGHT H. VOGEL.

Cincinnati will maintain contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
- ② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) *ujh*
- 2 - Cincinnati

DHV:stn
(6)

44-1987-Sub-m 929

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 5 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature]

FOIPA REQUEST

Do Not Destroy Prior to 4/12/99

Serial 910
(190-ME-44259)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

September 8, 1975

MURKIN

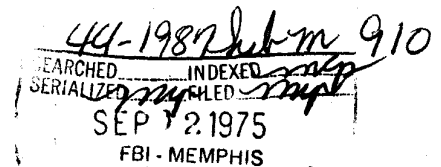
On August 22, 1975, Special Agent in Charge, James J. Dunn, Jr., of the Atlanta Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), contacted A. Reginald Eaves, Public Safety Director, Atlanta, Georgia Police Department, and referred Mr. Eaves to his letter to the Attorney General, dated July 30, 1975, in which Mr. Eaves volunteered to furnish a copy of recent investigation conducted by the Atlanta Police Department, regarding data furnished to the Police Department by Robert Byron Watson, pertaining to the murder of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Dunn requested that the FBI in Atlanta be furnished a copy of the Atlanta Police Department Report. This report will be forwarded through FBI Headquarters to the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Eaves advised a copy of the investigation would be made available through Captain K. E. Burnette, Intelligence Section, Bureau of Police Services, Atlanta, Georgia.

On August 29, 1975, Captain K. E. Burnette, Intelligence Section, Bureau of Police Services, furnished a copy of the Atlanta Police Department Investigation, which is attached.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36
10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 20, 25, 26, 15, 18, 19

MURKIN

At the time of contact with Mr. Eaves on August 22, 1975, by Special Agent in Charge Dunn, Mr. Eaves advised he had directed a letter to the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., requesting information pertaining to the murder of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Eaves advised that as of that time, a reply had not been received by him from the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. He was advised that this would be brought to the attention of the U. S. Department of Justice at the time when the results of the investigation conducted by the Atlanta Police Department, were furnished to the U. S. Department of Justice.

Also attached is a newspaper clipping from the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Page 6, Section A, dated September 1, 1975, and a clipping from "The Militant" Newspaper, Page 29, dated September 5, 1975.

INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED CONSPIRACY
TO ASSASSINATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Submitted by: Captain K. E. Burnette
Intelligence Section
Bureau of Police Services
Atlanta, Georgia

Investigative Contacts:

Detectives P. E. Sullivan, I. Mapp, and J. A. Williamson

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

On June 20, 1975, Detectives Sullivan, Mapp, and Williamson of the Intelligence Section were assigned by Section Commander Captain K. E. Burnette to investigate information recently received by Commissioner A. Reginald Eaves, which related to the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This information, which specifically alleged the existence of an Atlanta-based conspiracy in the death of Dr. King, was incorporated into a forty-two (42) page document, the bulk of which consisted of drug-related data.

The author of the entire document was self-identified as Robert Byron Watson, a twenty-one year old white male and a native of the Atlanta area. Preliminary inquiries established that Watson had an arrest record which included a 1972 arrest and conviction for importation of heroin, a subsequent arrest for Possession of Marijuana and a January 1975 arrest and subsequent conviction for Distribution of Cocaine. Watson is presently incarcerated in the Federal Youth Center in Ashland, Kentucky, and is now serving a five-year sentence on the latter charge.

As the conspiracy allegations comprised only a minor portion of the originator's lengthy statement, immediate investigative emphasis was placed upon determining the reliability of the drug-related information as an elementary factor in evaluating the source's total credibility. Towards this end, two investigators were assigned to this aspect of the investigation. A comprehensive report of their findings is attached as an appendage to this investigative summary; however, for purposes of clarity, certain pertinent facts obtained through their efforts require elaboration in the body of this report. In general, Watson's involvement in the narcotics traffic and his

familiarity with many of the illegal drug traffickers referenced in his statement can be documented through information on file with various local and federal narcotics enforcement agencies. Law enforcement records verify the subject's initial narcotics involvement as dating from July 26, 1972, when Watson and his mother were arrested for Importation of Heroin after quantities of that substance were discovered by federal agents in a magazine mailed to Watson at his mother's address from sources in the far east. However, while the subject's activities as a narcotics trafficker can be documented from the above date until his most recent arrest in January of 1975, investigation failed to substantiate Watson's claims, emphasized repeatedly throughout his statement, that he was an innocent victim of corrupt law enforcement officials who framed him because of his knowledge of their illegal activities. More specifically, Watson's charges that "federal gangsters" conspired to frame him in 1972 to silence him about the King and Kennedy conspiracies and again in January of 1975 to discredit his information regarding an international narcotics smuggling operation perpetrated by DEA agents were found to be totally erroneous. Investigation did establish that Watson, after his release from the Federal Youth Center in Ashland, Kentucky, in March of 1974, did approach the local office of the Drug Enforcement Administration about a position as a special employee working undercover to set up drug deals. DEA authorities relate that, while they were prohibited from utilizing Watson as an undercover operative by the conditions of his parole, he did, on that occasion, furnish the agency with cursory data relating to the local narcotics traffic. From this point, Watson's contact with the DEA was restricted to his narcotics transactions with several undercover DEA operatives whom, until his January, 1975 arrest, he did not know were employees of that agency. While information obtained indicates that the

above referenced individuals did utilize Watson for his narcotics contacts, there is no evidence to support Watson's allegations that these same authorities framed him in his last arrest to conceal their own involvement in an international smuggling ring.

However, exclusive of Watson's claims that he had been the victim of a drug-related conspiracy, the general reliability of the narcotics information submitted was deemed sufficient to merit a comprehensive investigation into his allegations of an Atlanta-based conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Investigators then began to conduct a series of interviews with individuals whose familiarity with Watson and/or the subjects whom he specifically named as conspiring to kill Dr. King could assist us in determining the credibility of the conspiracy-related information. For the purpose of this section of the summary, all of these interviews will be reported in a chronological format, and the collective results will then be analyzed in the general conclusions following the investigative summary.

PRELIMINARY ATLANTA INTERVIEWS

As a preparatory step in this facet of the investigation, Intelligence detectives, on June 24, 1975, visited the Atlanta office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where we requested agents to check the names of Robert Byron Watson and also of Jerry Adams, Larry Meier, Eugene Purcell, and Bayne Culley (the four alleged conspirators) through the FBI indices. The Bureau reported that it had no record of any of the above individuals in the regular filing system. However, subsequent conversations with Bureau personnel revealed that the local FBI office had received information in 1971 from Robert Byron Watson which, in all details relating to the King conspiracy, was essentially a

duplicate of that received by the Atlanta Bureau of Police Services. Agent Dick Berry, who was assigned the case, stated that the information was handled as a civil rights investigation and was, therefore, forwarded to the U. S. Department of Justice for further action. An official request from Commissioner Eaves to view the results of the federal government's investigation has now been filed with Attorney General Levi, and we await a decision in the matter. However, investigators were given to understand from Bureau sources that the Department of Justice found no substance to the conspiracy allegations.

A record check was also instituted through the Identification Section of the Bureau of Police Services, and Robert Byron Watson's arrest record was obtained. Of the four principals alleged in the conspiracy, Atlanta police files reflect only Bayne Stacy Culley, Jr. arrested on April 9, 1946 for Carrying a Pistol Without a License and on December 18, 1950 for a traffic violation. Since Watson's statements indicated a radical right affiliation on the part of the four named subjects, Atlanta Intelligence files and those of other local agencies were quired to determine involvement in right wing extremist activities. No record of this type of affiliation could be located in regards to any of the principals, although Jerry Adams was identified as an active member of The John Birch Society, an ultra-conservative organization which cannot objectively be catagorized as right wing extremist in nature.

Also on June 24, 1975, at approximately 1:30 p.m., an interview was held with Mr. Steve Mullis and Mr. Bob Hall, federal probation officers assigned to Robert Byron Watson from the date of his parole in March of 1974 until his most recent arrest and conviction in 1975. While these officers were somewhat restricted in what they could divulge by the nature of their responsibilities, both gentlemen were extremely cooperative. Both Mr. Mullis and Mr. Hall

confirmed the source's conscious participation in narcotics activities and described Watson as an overly protected, emotionally unstable individual whose actions they believed to be primarily motivated by an obsession to be important and to be accepted by some element of society. In their professional opinion, Watson's overwhelming desire for acceptance was equally reflected through his attachment to the criminal community on the one hand and through his attempted identification with law enforcement sources (the DEA) on the other. Information which these sources were able to provide into Watson's background indicated that the subject had a history of severe asthma which, during his childhood, resulted in isolation from his peer group and in an overly protective attitude on the part of his parents. Since the death of his father in 1966, Watson, an only child, has been obsessively protected by his mother and maternal grandmother, with his only apparent outlet his passion for archeology and ancient artifacts.

During the course of the interview, investigators were permitted to view a psychological analysis of Robert Byron Watson performed in 1973 during the subject's incarceration at the Federal Youth Center in Ashland, Kentucky. This psychological evaluation, which provided professional documentation to the probation official's assessment of Watson's emotional instability, cited the subject in question as having an early history of mental disorder and classified him in the following psychological terms: "a schizophrenic, chronic undifferentiated type; is considered psychotic and dangerous to the community; has no real judgement; is extremely grandiose; has a great deal of looseness of association in thought with direction of thought and conversation constantly changing."

After obtaining a professional evaluation of the source's character and background, investigators interviewed Mr. William Arnette, identified by Watson as a close personal friend and the individual who introduced Watson to Magellan,

Inc., the art gallery where the alleged conversation about the conspiracy reportedly took place. By way of background, William S. Arnette (AKA Arenowitch,) now residing in Atlanta, is a white male, approximately thirty-six (36) years of age, born Columbus, Georgia, B.A. degree from University of Georgia. Arnette a reported expert in ancient art with an impressive private collection, operated "The West Eleven, Inc." art and antique shop on West Eleventh Street, Atlanta, before being retained by Magellan, Inc. as chief buyer of the art and antiques sold at the gallery. When contacted at his home on Knollwood Drive, Atlanta, at approximately 3:00 p.m., June 24, 1975, Arnette stated that he had initially met Watson through the latter's interest in ancient art and that he had attempted to assist Byron with his hobby. He also stated that Byron consistently frequented Magellan and both Byron and his mother had made a number of art purchases, both from Magellans and from Arnette personally, purchases financed by a large insurance settlement accrued by Mrs. Watson upon the death of her husband. Arnette advised that his personal relationship with both Watsons was interrupted in 1970 when the Watsons, who had purchased a quantity of art items totaling some \$46,500 from Arnette and had then attempted to sue him for defrauding them with worthless material. Arnette, who by this time had moved his collection to Columbus, Georgia, stated that the situation became extremely complex when Mrs. Watson, convinced by Byron that Gene Purcell planned to marry her, was told by her son that half of Arnette's collection belonged to Purcell, and, therefore, confronted Arnette demanding what belonged to "Gene and her." According to Arnette, this period became difficult with Byron threatening him personally and accusing him of defrauding him and his mother until in December of 1970, Watson was arrested while attempting to burglarize Arnette's warehouse in Columbus. This incident is documented in Watson's arrest record which also

reflects that the charges were subsequently dropped. In Arnette's statement, he dropped contact with Watson until 1972/1973 when the subject was incarcerated in Ashland, Kentucky. During that period, Arnette stated that he corresponded with Byron and even offered to help him upon his release. However, he stated that Byron was extremely erratic, given to grandiose visions and violent outbursts, and that Mrs. Watson's stability was also highly questionable.

When questioned specifically regarding his involvement with Magellans, Arnette relayed the following information: Magellans was incorporated under the title of Blockade Runners, Inc., in November of 1966. Incorporators of the venture were Jerry Adams, Benjamin L. Sutherland, and John Nelson, all previously associated in Adams Associates, a private detective agency, credit bureau, and bill collection agency, and The Atlantic Clearing Exchange, 3177 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. The idea for the corporation, and obviously its title, stemmed from an attempt by Adams, in 1966, to raise a civil war blockade runner off the North Carolina coast, an enterprise in which Eugene Purcell was to be employed as a diver. When the entire venture was aborted through a legal tangle with the state of North Carolina, Adams, Southerland, and Nelson formed Blockade Runners, Inc., d.b.a. Magellans, to serve as a clearing house for ancient eastern and pre-Columbian artifacts and also for civil war relics. The business, established initially at 3177 Peachtree Road, was moved shortly thereafter to its primary location at 3340 Peachtree Road. Bayne Culley and Gene Purcell were brought in as stockholders to handle the civil war materials while Arnette was introduced as a buyer for pre-Columbian and far-eastern art objects.

Arnette stated that he only performed one buying trip for Magellans in the summer of 1967 when he visited a number of far-eastern countries to procure various art pieces for the gallery. When he returned from this trip, he stated

that problems, both personal and financial, had arisen at Magellans, and in December of 1967, Arnette left the company. He further advised that he had not renewed contact with any of the Magellan principals since that date and described them as all belonging to the political right. Of particular interest to detectives was Arnette's reference to Bayne Culley and Gene Purcell as very physical and bigoted individuals. As a result of the interview with Mr. Arnette, investigators were primarily interested in determining the reliability of his statement that Gene Purcell had, in 1956, been involved in a racial incident in Clinton, Tennessee, during which a black school was dynamited and damage to other property incurred.

While in the process of gathering all available background information regarding Magellans and its principals, investigators also systematically traced the evolution of the conspiracy allegations from March 28, 1968, the date identified in the source's statement as the occasion when the alleged conversation took place, until the entire document was brought to the attention of the Bureau of Police Services. Watson stated that he told no one but his mother about the conversation until 1970 when the Watsons traveled to Washington, D. C. to present their evidence to President Nixon. After experiencing disinterest on the part of Secret Service agents with whom they came in contact, the Watsons returned to Atlanta where they contacted local attorney Lynnwood Maddox. On June 25, 1975, an interview was conducted with Mr. Maddox.

Mr. Maddox stated that, sometime in 1970, Mrs. Edwards, Byron's grandmother and an acquaintance of Maddox through mutual church activities, brought Byron to his office, upon which time the conspiracy allegations were related to him. Mr. Maddox advised that, although his memory of the incident had grown rather vague with time, he did recall that Byron appeared frightened and that his story had

a ring of consistency. He further stated that Byron had referred to the alleged conspirators as "businessmen" and also as "the Southern Maffia," and that he had also referred to the Kennedy assassination as related to the same group as well as to several other assassinations now being plotted. Mr. Maddox also recalled that Byron had mentioned receiving a reward for the information which he hoped to collect from "someone like Mrs. Kennedy." At this point in the interview, Mr. Maddox could not recall exactly whom he had advised Byron to contact, but was reasonably certain that he had set up interviews for Watson with the FBI and with Governor Lester Maddox. In regards to the latter, Mrs. Watson and Byron did apparently gain an interview with the Governor, during the course of which a reward was again mentioned, much to Governor Maddox's displeasure. The Watsons were then referred to Mr. Bernard Fensterwald and the Committee to Investigate Assassinations in Washington, D. C. At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Maddox advised that, while he greatly admired his grandmother, on the basis of his brief acquaintance with Byron, he judged him to be a rather strange individual.

On June 25, 1975, Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, current chief counsel for James Earl Ray, was contacted by phone at his law firm in Washington, D. C. After conversing with Mr. Fensterwald and his investigator Mr. Ken Smith, it was determined that these gentlemen had been contacted by Watson in 1970 and that Mr. Smith had visited Atlanta on various occasions to investigate various aspects of Watson's conspiracy allegations. As both gentlemen seemed to place credence in the document in question, it was agreed that investigators would meet with them in Washington to obtain whatever additional facts and documentation were available. During the conversation with Mr. Smith, it was revealed that he had personally talked with a subject in Atlanta, claiming to be the

former girl friend of James Earl Ray, who stated that she had visited the Magellan location with Ray.

With the assistance of several law enforcement contacts, background information was compiled on both Mr. Fensterwald and Mr. Smith to determine the reliability of their information. Information received through this inquiry reflected Mr. Fensterwald to be a well-established attorney whose career includes a six-year stint as a legal advisor to the State Department (1950-1956); chief counsel on the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments (1959-1960); staff director of the Senate Anti-Trust and Monopoly Subcommittee (1961-1964); and counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practices and Procedures where he became involved in investigating illegal wiretapping operations (1967-1968.) In 1968, Fensterwald left senate service and in 1969 founded the privately sponsored Committee to Investigate Assassinations. In this capacity, he has published a series of articles on the Kennedy assassination, and in 1970 became the chief counsel for James Earl Ray. In addition, Mr. Fensterwald represented convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord. Mr. Ken Smith is a retired agent of the U. S. Treasury Department and presently Fensterwald's chief investigator. Sources contacted considered both men to be reputable.

At approximately 5:00 p.m. on June 25, 1975, investigators interviewed Mrs. Edna Mathews at her place of employment, the Orange Julius Stand in the Lakewood Shopping Center. Mrs. Mathews, a white female approximately 45-50 years of age, did not appear surprised when we identified ourselves; however, she stated that she was afraid to talk to us in the restaurant, therefore the interview was conducted in the detective car parked in the shopping center. Mrs. Mathews stated that she had met James Earl Ray through her husband, a

service friend of Ray's, and that she had spent considerable time with Ray, both in Atlanta and in California and had borne his son. Beyond this point, Mrs. Mathews' statements were totally incoherent as she described an "American Revolutionary Army" headed by Sam Giancana and a CIA agent, which was responsible for political assassinations, kidnappings, illegal drug trafficking, etc. When asked specifically about Magellans and its principals, Mrs. Mathews showed no recognition, even when the former location of the gallery was described. Mrs. Mathews' credibility was negated by investigators; although it was subsequently learned that this subject has attended the majority of court proceedings involving James Earl Ray and has taken trips to several distant locations including Costa Rica. However, Mrs. Mathews failed to provide any evidence of a link between Ray and an Atlanta-based conspiracy centered at Magellans.

On June 27, 1975, interviews were scheduled respectively with Mrs. Edwards, Byron's grandmother, and Mrs. Lillian Watson, the source's mother. Mrs. Edwards, an elderly lady recovering from an illness, stated that she had no direct knowledge of the conspiracy allegations, and was most immediately concerned with obtaining Byron's release from prison. However, she was able to verify that, in the fall of 1974, Byron Watson had left the country, without the permission of his probation office, for Santiago, Chile. Mrs. Edwards was not aware of his activities while in Chile, but stated that he had called her from Santiago requesting money to come home. Mrs. Edwards stated that she acquiesced to this request and showed us a payment book for a bank loan which she took out to finance Byron's return trip to Atlanta. Mrs. Edwards appeared thoroughly convinced of her grandson's innocence in his most recent arrest and conviction.

On the same date, Mrs. Lillian Watson was interviewed at her home at 764 Wildwood Road, N. E. Mrs. Watson stated that, on March 28, 1968, she had driven to Magellans to pick up Byron. During the ride home, she stated that Byron had

told her that Dr. King was to be killed, and had given her the time, date, and manner. She said that she had not really placed much credence in the information until after Dr. King was assassinated. Mrs. Watson, who typed all of Byron's statements, repeated his conspiracy allegations verbatim as they had appeared in the document. She advised us that, after he overheard the conversation, Byron had been threatened by Gene Purcell and that, out of fear, both Watsons had kept silent about their knowledge of the conspiracy until June 11, 1970 when they traveled to Washington to see President Nixon. Mrs. Watson stated that the Secret Service was "very rude" to them and showed no interest in their story. Upon returning to Atlanta they contacted Mr. Lynnwood Maddox who eventually placed them in contact with Mr. Fensterwald.

When questioned about Gene Purcell, Mrs. Watson admitted that "he had been interested in her" and that, just prior to the King assassination, she had observed Purcell to be extremely agitated and usually intoxicated. She also stated that, the weekend after the assassination, Purcell left Byron a note at Magellans advising him that he had left the country and might never come back. Mrs. Watson alleged that Purcell, Culley, and Meier left the country right after the assassination; and stated that Jean Sayre, who ran Magellans during this period, could corroborate this fact.

Mrs. Watson appeared most anxious that the investigation into the alleged conspiracy would, in some manner, occasion her son's release from prison. While she could offer no new information to support those charges contained in Watson's statement, she showed investigators letters received from Senators McKinney, Nunn, Church, and Jackson, all of which were dated in June of 1975 and which acknowledged receipt of Byron's statement which she had forwarded to them. Mrs. Watson also stated that Lamar Singleton, an aide to Representative Hosea Williams,

and Attorney John Hudson Miers were interested in the case.

Investigators then talked with Attorney Ernest Brookins, Byron's legal counsel in his last arrest and trial. Mr. Brookins was extremely cooperative and was willing to discuss his client at length.

Mr. Brookins stated that his first professional contact with the Watsons had been in 1970 when Mrs. Watson engaged him to file a suit against William Arnette. He stated that, in April of 1970, Mrs. Watson had written him a letter in which she stated that she had a problem but could not confide it "if I value my life and that of my son." Mrs. Watson did write, in the same letter, that, if Mr. Brookins aided her, there would be a lot of money for both him and her son.

Mr. Brookins, according to his statement, has maintained a professional relationship as Byron's attorney during his two major narcotics convictions, a relationship which degenerated into hostility on the part of the Watsons when Brookins advised Byron to plead guilty in his last hearing. During the course of this relationship, Mr. Brookins stated that he had been fully briefed by the Watsons regarding the conspiracy allegations, was aware of Fensterwald's interest in the matter, but, in his own words, seriously doubted Byron's credibility in that regard.

To support this opinion, Mr. Brookins showed detectives a series of letters from various educational authorities documenting Byron's emotional instability while enrolled in the Atlanta Public School System. He also advised investigators of Byron's erratic behavior during his latest trial when, at one point, the subject placed a call to an undercover DEA agent in Denver and told him to find the DEA agent who had "set him up and take care of him." In another conversation with an undercover federal agent, Byron is reported as stating that he was going to kill his mother and grandmother to get the inheritance money.

In addition, Watson, according to Brookins, used offensive and profane language in court and seemed bent on further incriminating himself.

Mr. Brookins was, however, able to verify certain aspects of Byron's statement not related to the King conspiracy. For example, he confirmed that Byron had made a trip to Thailand in 1972 and to Chile in 1974. Regarding the latter, Mr. Brookins produced a letter, dated October 6, 1974, written by Byron from Chile, in which Watson mentions that he is extremely close to several high government officials including Don Carlos Morales and "can make a fortune" from these sources. Byron also writes that he may come back to the U. S. "if Fensterwald gets his act together." It is believed, but not totally substantiated, that the Chile trip, like the one to Thailand, may have been closely connected with Watson's narcotics activity.

At this point in the investigation, priorities were directed towards compiling additional background information regarding the alleged conspirators, with special attention given to proving or disproving Watson's claims that the four individuals left the country directly following the assassination. On July 2, 1975, Mrs. Jean Sayre was contacted at her present residence in Ashville, North Carolina. Mrs. Sayre reportedly managed Magellans for a period in the late spring/early summer of 1968 after the Blockade Runners, Inc. interests had collapsed.

Mrs. Sayre stated that she and her partner, Mary Singleton, had been persuaded by Mr. William Arnette to move their stock of European antiques from a small shop on Peachtree Street to Magellans in the summer of 1967. The negotiated arrangement provided that the ladies could house their collection for exhibition and retail purposes at 3340 Peachtree Road, rent free, in return for which they would act as salespersons for the artifacts displayed by Blockade Runners, Inc. Mrs. Sayre stated that the operation had never been profitable for herself and her partner, that their personal inventory was badly depleted by thefts. She stated

that she personally lost \$750.00 which she had invested in Blockade Runners stocks. She further stated that she had only a working relationship with the other principals and had no basis for speculating as to their personalities or political views. However, she described both Jerry Adams and William Arnette as "con men" and expressed active dislike for Larry Meier due to his "sexual habits."

Mrs. Sayre could not specifically recall the date that she took over the operation of Magellans, but she believed that by late March/early April of 1968 Blockade Runners had removed all of their stock from 3340 Peachtree Road to the building housing Jerry Adams' collection agency (3177 Peachtree Road), leaving her to operate her antique business, under the Magellan trade name, until approximately July of 1968. When asked specifically if any of the principals had left the country during that time period (April-July, 1960,) Mrs. Sayre stated that, to her knowledge, Arnette was the only associate of Magellans who had travelled abroad, and that she had no information that Adams, Meier, Culley, or Purcell had gone outside of the United States during her association with them.

Additional inquiries through the U. S. Customs and Passport Authorities failed to substantiate that any of the principals had left the United States in the spring or summer of 1968.

All available records for Blockade Runners, Inc. were obtained and reflected the following general information:

Stockholders

J. R. Adams	360 Shares
B. L. Sutherland	360 Shares
J. W. Nelson	360 Shares
J. G. Grizzard	166 Shares
H. E. Purcell	116 Shares
J. G. Adams	46 Shares
F. M. Clamon, Jr.	10 Shares

Board of Directors

J. R. Adams	Chairman
B. L. Sutherland	Director
J. W. Nelson	Director
H. E. Purcell	Director

Officers

J. R. Adams	President
J. W. Nelson	Executive Vice President
H. E. Purcell	Vice President
B. L. Sutherland	Secretary/Treasurer

Associates

James Kemp	Owner of Buckhead Radio Shop.
Raymond Anderson	Restorer and Framer.
Larry Meier	Antique and Art Restoration.
William Arnette	Buyer.
Paul Clifford	Authority on pre-Columbian Art.
Bayne S. Culley, Jr.	Authority on Civil War Relics.
William Thibideau	Banker and Real Estate Entrepreneur.
John Seymour	Lockheed Executive.

Information collected revealed that of all associated principals, only Jerry Adams, Ben Sutherland, John Nelson, Larry Meier, Bayne Culley and Howard Eugene Purcell were active in the day-to-day operation of the business. The management operations were handled by Adams, Sutherland, and Nelson, while Purcell, general manager after Arnette withdrew, and Culley maintained the restoration aspects of the business through his own firm, Southeast Restoration Laboratories.

Since the dissolution of Magellans in 1968, principals in the company are now employed as follows:

Jerry Adams, Ben Sutherland, and John Nelson are principal officers in the Great American Silver Company, 3862 Stewart Road, Doraville, Georgia. This company is now under indictment by The Securities and Exchange Commission.

Bayne Culley, Jr. now resides at 1929 McJenkins Drive, Atlanta.
Salesman, civil war relic collector, and race car driver.

Harold Eugene Purcell now resides in Clinton, Tennessee; employed
by The Atomic Energy Commission in Oakridge, Tennessee.

Larry Meier - Archeological consultant for five-county area in Georgia.

On June 27, 1975, investigators interviewed Mr. Ben Sutherland, a fellow
associate in the Great American Silver Company, at his Doraville office. Mr.
Southerland related the following information:

Mr. Southerland confirmed that Magellan Galleries operated as a result of
a corporation called Blockade Runners being formed some time in 1966 by himself,
Mr. Bill Arnette, Jerry Adams, Larry Meier, Gene Purcell, Bayne Culley, Paul
Clifford, Wayne Pharr, Bill Thibideau and a number of other persons. Mr.
Southerland recalled that the company operated from approximately September,
1966, until January, 1968. However, he believes he may be able to locate some
of the old company records which would pin down more accurately the time period
in which Magellan Galleries operated. Mr. Southerland remembered that Robert
Byron Watson, who was a teenager at the time, worked in the gallery and there
may have been some special relationship between Watson and Larry Meier who lived
on the premises at the gallery. The company experienced a great deal of theft
during the time it operated and was never financially successful. Mr. Southerland
recalled that approximately a total of \$30,000 was invested in the company by
about 20 to 24 people.

In questioning Mr. Southerland regarding his personal opinion of the
political views of those persons involved in the operation of Magellan Galleries,

he said that all would probably be considered "conservative" with the exception of Bill Arnette. He remembered one individual by the name of Jimmy Kemp, who was an investor in the company, as being ultra-conservative and very racially prejudiced against blacks. Mr. Southerland states that Jimmy Kemp died several years ago. We also asked Mr. Southerland if he was acquainted with Congressman Larry McDonald, and he stated that he was and that to his knowledge the only other person involved in the Magellan Galleries who was acquainted with the Congressman would be Jerry Adams. He could not personally recall if Mr. McDonald had ever visited the gallery but, of course, he was not there in the day-to-day operation of the gallery.

Mr. Southerland stated that Gene Purcell (a friend of his) had been involved in some type of racial incident (probably the burning of a school bus) back in Tennessee when he was a young man, and that Purcell used to talk about the incident from time to time. According to Mr. Southerland, Purcell was living in Clinton, Tennessee, the last time he had contact with him (about five years ago,) and that Purcell's ex-wife, Patsy Purcell, as well as his brother named John Purcell, still lived in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

Mr. Southerland believed that Larry Meier is now employed by the state of Georgia in some capacity to do with his knowledge of archaeology. He suspected that Mr. Meier may have been a homosexual at the time he was associated with Magellan Galleries.

During the investigation, we had occasion to observe several books in bookcases adjacent to Mr. Southerland's desk. Two volumes of these books were titled "A Biographical Dictionary on the Left." Also, had occasion to observe what appeared to be a 12-gauge automatic-pump shotgun leaning in the corner wall near the door to Mr. Southerland's office.

OUT-OF-TOWN INVESTIGATIONS

On July 8, 1975, investigators traveled to Washington, D. C. to interview Mr. Bernard Fensterwald and Mr. Ken Smith. The primary purpose of the trip was to secure whatever documentation these gentlemen might have to substantiate their belief in Byron Watson's allegations.

An extensive conversation was conducted in Mr. Fensterwald's law office. During this discussion, it was learned that Mr. Smith had spent a significant amount of time in Atlanta attempting to collect concrete evidence to substantiate Watson's story; however, he could produce no documentation to support key points raised by Watson. Mr. Smith did furnish investigators with a series of correspondence between himself and the Watsons, dating from March through May of 1975, the intermittent period between Byron's arrest and sentencing for Distribution of Cocaine. Copies of this correspondence are now on file and are of primary importance in that they clearly illustrate the Watsons' belief that the conspiracy information, if presented to the proper authorities, will substantiate Byron's claims that he was framed by "federal gangsters." In one such letter, Mrs. Watson lists the following individuals as recipients of the 42-page document:

- Representative Stewart B. McKinney
- Governor George Wallace
- Senator Henry Jackson
- Senator Charles Percy
- Senator Edward Kennedy
- Dick Gregory
- Mark Lane
- Carl Oglesby
- Bella Abzug
- Senator Frank Church
- Senator George McGovern
- Representative Phillip Burton
- Representative Henry Gonzalez

Mr. Fensterwald stated that he was firmly convinced of the existence of a

conspiracy in both the Kennedy and the King assassinations. In reference to the King case, his interests, as James Earl Ray's defense counsel, lie in researching all possible allegations which might substantiate that a conspiracy was involved; thus, his interest in Watson's story. As told to investigators, Mr. Fensterwald's major arguments to support a conspiracy in general and the Atlanta-based conspiracy in particular can be reduced to the following points:

1. Through long association with Ray, Mr. Fensterwald assesses him as mentally incapable of having planned and executed the sophisticated strategy utilized in the King assassination.
2. Mr. Fensterwald stated that in 1970 he was approached by Attorney John Mitchell and given a proposition to present to Ray; (i.e.) if Ray would name his fellow conspirators, he would be given a false identity and spirited out of the country. Ray's response according to Fensterwald was to refuse the deal on the grounds that he would be killed if he talked.
3. As regards the Atlanta-based conspiracy, Fensterwald stated that, before the assassination, Ray was involved in the smuggling of narcotics and stolen jewelry across both the Mexican and Canadian borders, a parallel operation to the smuggling activities which Watson, in his most recent statements, alleges were carried on through Magellans and associates.
4. Fensterwald felt that Edna Mathews provided a link between Ray and Magellans.
5. Fensterwald stated that Robert Byron Watson had been given a polygraph regarding his story by Cleve Backster of New York City, and that the examiner found him to be 90-95% truthful.